

## **NOAA Fisheries Service Leadership Council Terms of Reference**

The NOAA Fisheries Leadership Council is the senior policy making and advisory body for Agency policy, decision making, strategy, direction, and guidance serving the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries.

**Scope of the Council:** The Leadership Council serves the Agency through its actions in the following areas:

- The Council develops long term plans, priorities, and direction for the Agency.
- The Council ensures the integration of science and management to support the mission of the Agency.
- The Council addresses national science, management, and operational issues and programs, and develops Agency policy.

### **Organization and Reporting:**

The Council is structured to ensure maximum input and contribution from the Agency's key organizational units.

The overall function of the Council in the nationwide scope of NOAA Fisheries is to coordinate and communicate consistently with the Deputies Council, Regulatory Board, and Science Board in the context of effective governance and in maintaining and improving NOAA Fisheries' national policies and programs, such as strategic planning and management of the Agency's human and fiscal resources. Communications are also to be carried out as widely as appropriate with the general NOAA Fisheries workforce such as posting agendas and meeting summaries on the NOAA Fisheries Intranet for all employees.

Meetings of the Leadership Council are held three times per year, generally in the April/May, August/September, and November/December time periods.

The Office of Policy provides secretariat support (including a private Intranet) for the NOAA Fisheries Leadership Council. Agendas and meeting summaries are posted on the NOAA Fisheries Intranet for all employees.

**Leadership Council Members:** The Council is chaired by the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, and its membership is comprised of:

- The Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations; the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs; and the Director of Scientific Programs/Chief Science Advisor.
- The five Regional Administrators.
- The six Science Center Directors.
- The Office and Program Directors of Protected Resources, Sustainable Fisheries, Habitat Conservation, Science and Technology, Management and Budget, Policy, Seafood Inspection, Law Enforcement, International Affairs, Aquaculture,

Communications, the Chief Information Officer, and the National Policy Advisor for Recreational Fisheries.

**Funding:**

The Council functions through in-kind contributions of staff time.

**Duration:**

The Council will continue to operate until it is deemed unnecessary.